



## **LSTA Un-Served and Library Technology Upgrades Grant 2008-2009**

### **Overview**

The Institute for Museum and Library Services identified “targeting library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children from families with incomes below the poverty line” as one of the primary goals of the LSTA grant program. The Indiana State Library included this goal in its 2008-2012 LSTA five year plan: “The Indiana State Library will provide resources and support to libraries which seek to serve the un-served or underserved populations in the state.”

Approximately 6.5 percent of Indiana residents are not served by a public library system. This population is spread over a wide geographic area affecting 38 of 92 counties. This is a striking number considering that Indiana ranks below the national average in number of computers in households and households with Internet connectivity, and that 69% of Indiana residents indicate that access to high-speed internet, provided by libraries, is very beneficial to business and economic growth in communities (Indiana Business Research Center 2007). This means that for roughly 6.5% of the population, there is no information safety net or alternative point of access to information for those unable to afford or access online resources.

Residents in Indiana who lack access to public libraries need to be reached and many libraries require assistance to meet basic technological standards. Increasing service areas and services however is too difficult for many libraries because they are unable to meet the immediate costs of expansion and may not receive any revenue from new services for months. In-line with IMLS goals, the Indiana State library will use this fund to help libraries offset the initial up-front costs associated with adding new services and service areas so that they are able to increasingly meet the needs of underserved and un-served populations.

Thus, the goal of this project is to assist public libraries in providing library services to un-served and underserved populations within the state. The Indiana State Library will use these grant monies to provide support for local libraries willing to extend their current service area or services such that un-served or underserved populations gain increased access to libraries and information. Assistance will also be given to under-funded libraries to enhance their use of technology and automation systems in order that they meet state standards and provide basic services to their communities

## **Application Process**

### **1. Who may apply?**

Libraries making a concerted effort to extend their current service area or services such that un-served or underserved populations gain increased access to library services and electronic resources may be considered for this grant.

### **2. How do libraries apply?**

Any library willing to increase their service area to include currently un-served populations in Indiana or any small libraries struggling to provide basic library service to their communities or meet technology standards may contact the state library with their plan for enhancing or expanding services. The state library will determine whether or not the project can be funded.

### **3. What amounts may be requested?**

The specific amount of assistance provided will be determined by the individual needs of libraries interested in this project.

### **4. What is acceptable use of these funds?**

Methods public libraries have used in the past to provide services for the un-served populations include consolidation with annexation, annexing un-served areas, or creating outreach programs such as bookmobiles. Costs associated with these methods can include combining catalogs of separate libraries, purchasing additional collection items, technology improvements (i.e. more computers, additional band-width, etc.), and other purchases that increase services and access for new patrons. For example, these funds will be available for creating a shared public access catalog, purchasing technological equipment, or increasing networking capabilities.

#### **Allowable expenses**

Technology hardware and software (See CIPA information below)

Training for participating staff and volunteers

Project staff (wages and benefits of temporary employees or temporary expansion of part-time staff)

#### **CIPA Statement**

Use of LSTA funds for certain allowable purchases may require public libraries or public elementary and secondary school libraries to comply with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). For additional details see: [www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html)

#### **Non-allowable expenses**

Ongoing operating costs

Wages and benefits for existing full-time employees

Entertainment costs

Overhead or indirect costs

Other expenses restricted by state or federal guidelines

Please contact Jacob Speer (317)232-3715 or Amy Holliday (317)234-6550.